Production of Aluminium

1159. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present domestic demand for Aluminium;

(b) the present level of production of Aluminium in the country; and

(c) whether Aluminium is being exported, if so, the extent of export of the same during the last three years, alongwith the foreign exchange earned during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) The estimated domestic demand for aluminium in the country during 1993-94 is 3,83,000 tonnes.

(b) The actual production figures of Aluminium by the primary producers during the last 3 years and estimate for 1993-94 are given below:

(Unit in Tonnes)

1990-91 Actuals	1991-92 Actuals	1992-93 Actuals	1993-94 (Estimated)
4,49,385	5,14,165	4,84,913	4,66,158

(c) The quantity and value of exports of Alumina and Aluminium by the primary producers during the last three years are given below :

Unit : Tonnes

Value : Rs./Crores

Year	Alumina		Aluminium	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1990-91	3,91,255	220.01	36,215	120.91
1991-92	4,06,846	185.81	72,919	263.18
1992-93	5,19,731	258.41	1,13,048	443.93

Formation of Joint Venture in HCL Projects

1160. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Copper Limited has failed to influence foreign countries to become equity partners in its proposed projects;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to convince prospective overseas clients regarding formation of a joint venture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No concrete proposals so far have been received from foreign countries for equity participation in the projects of Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL).

(b) Poor grade of copper ore and limited known copper reserves in the country, high capital costs, low scales of operations, long gestation period etc. seem to be negative factors influencing the prospects of equity participation by the foreign countries in the projects of HCL.

(c) In terms of Industrial Policy 1991, foreign equity participation upto 51 per cent is under automatic approval and mining of copper has been dereserved as per the National Mineral Policy; 1993.

Production of MICA

1161. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a sharp decline in the mica production and consequential fall in the exports;

(b) if so, what is the comparative decline in the mica production during 1990-91, 91-92 and 92-93 and fall in its exports during these years stating the fall in the foreign exchange earnings;

(c) what are the major causes identified for slump in the country's mica industry;

(d) the etimated number of workers rendered jobless as a result thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to revive the mica industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Comparative production and export of mica for the last 3 years is as under:—

Production	1990-91 (Tonnes)	1991-92 (Tonnes)	1992-93 (Tonnes)
Mica crude	4052	3593	2507
Mica waste and scrap	3366	2364	1490
Export	42591	34879	25160
Value of export (Rs. in crores)	51.3	55.5	38.8

(c) The main causes identified for slump in the country's mica industry are; lack of demand in the international market subtitution of mica and its product, and the deeper mines becoming operationally uneconomically viable.

(d) During 1990-91 the number of people employed in Mica Mines was 2942. While the number of people so employed in 1992-93 was 2213.

(e) Revival of the Industry can be through steps like diversifications into new products, identification of new applications and markets and technological improvements.